



Making Tracks

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Layout: Rene Parker, *Administrative Staff Assistant*



Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

7 It's Trackin' Time!

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(All Ages) Ever wonder about those mysterious tracks in your backyard? What animal left them? Was the animal walking, running, hopping or galloping? We'll identify the tracks of many Missouri animals, investigate some "track stories" and discover what you can learn from footprints. We'll also make track ornaments for you to take home! *Naturalist: Amy Anderson.* (Reservations begin immediately.)



Bird Workshop for Educators

Saturday, January 21
9 a.m. – Noon
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Are you interested in using birds to teach concepts and skills in science? This workshop will present Flying WILD, a new program of the Council for Environmental Education that introduces middle school students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects. Activities can easily be adapted for upper elementary students. Support materials, including *Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds*, will be provided. A materials fee of \$10 is due on the day of the workshop. To register, call (636) 458-2236.

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

December 2005 Volume 05, Number 12



Selection of Evergreen Trees For Your Landscape

By: Rob Emmett, Urban Forester

Have you ever stood under the cool, shaded canopy of a mature pine forest? The soft layer of needles underfoot makes every step a pleasurable experience. With the slightest breeze, the whole forest begins to whisper in a voice that goes straight to your soul. It is no wonder that we wish to include the evergreen in our own landscapes. However, the selection of the proper evergreen is essential to minimize your maintenance and maximize the long-term survival of the tree.

Missouri is blessed with a wealth of plants that are native to a wide variety of ecosystems. Unfortunately, one of the few exceptions to this wealth is the diversity of evergreen trees. We are primarily limited to three species: shortleaf pine, Eastern redcedar and the Ashe juniper. Even though any of these three trees could be used in your landscapes, they each have certain physical qualities that limit their desirability to many people. Both the shortleaf pine and the Ashe juniper are considered limited to their southern range because neither survives well in the winters outside of their normal range. The Eastern redcedar is native statewide, but it is subject to defoliation from bagworms, and deformation by several fungal needle disorders. However, several improved cultivars of the red cedar have become successful in our landscapes. They are the 'Burkii', 'Canaertii', 'Skyrocket' and 'Hillii.'

Once you get beyond our three native evergreen trees, the selection process should be based upon the "limiting factors" for the tree: soil type, water and sunlight. You need to explore the physical qualities of the planting site, then research the evergreen possibilities for that location. Getting the right tree into the right place is usually the result of a little homework, rather than blind luck.

Once you have completed the assessment of your planting site for its limiting factors, you begin your research. As part of your research, you will need to check your local nurseries, not only to see what they have available, but also what they can order for you.

To assist you with your efforts, I have included a list of evergreen tree species available in the St. Louis area. This list includes species that have been used for a number of years with varying degrees of success and some interesting "new species" that may be a little harder to find.



Common Species

Austrian pine, *Pinus nigra*
Eastern white pine, *Pinus strobes*
Japanese black pine, *Pinus thunbergiana*
Red pine, *Pinus resinosa*
Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris*
Virginia pine, *Pinus virginiana*
Black Hills spruce, *Picea glauca* var. *densata*
Colorado spruce, *Picea pungens* (many cultivars)
Norway spruce, *Picea abies*
Serbian spruce, *Picea omorika*
Carolina hemlock, *Tsuga caroliniana*
Emerald green arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis*, "emerald green"
Chinese junipers, *Juniperus chinensis* (many cultivars)
Eastern redcedar, *Juniperus virginiana* (many cultivars)



Interesting New Species

Canaan fir (cross of Fraser fir and balsam fir)
Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
Green giant arborvitae, *Thuja plicata x standishii*
Lacebark pine, *Pinus bungeana*
Leyland cypress, *Cupressocyparis leylandii*
Macedonia pine, *Pinus peuce*
Mexican white pine 'Forest sky,' *Pinus ayachuite*



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Mo

waiting list. Interpretive services

proximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

6 Carnivores of Missouri
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) The carnivorous mammals of Missouri are beautiful animals with high intelligence. Find out why it is so important that we allow these efficient predators to flourish. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin November 22.)

10 Clark Hike
Saturday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(Adults) The Weldon Spring area supports a wide range of wildlife during the winter. Have you ever wondered what natural food sources are available for these animals? Come and join us for an invigorating 5.3-mile hike through the hills of Weldon Spring CA as we look for nuts, berries and other foods that native animals use during the winter. *Naturalist: Marv Staloch.* (Reservations begin November 28.)

10 Owls
Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 2-4) Who’s awake while you are sleeping? We will learn about nocturnal animals that might live near you. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin November 28.)

12 The Eagles
Monday 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Discover how the magnificent bald eagle became endangered in Missouri and how these birds have been brought back to begin nesting and raising their eaglets in this state. *Naturalist: Billy Key.* (Reservations begin December 1.)



12 Winter Birds
Monday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 4-6) What happens to our bird friends in the winter? Where do they go and what do they eat? Do birds hibernate or migrate? If they stay here, how do they stay warm? Come learn about a few of our feathered friends and make a feeder to take home to attract winter birds to your backyard. Dress for the weather so we can take a hike to see some birds in action! *Naturalists: Kathy Hellmann & Penny Elder.* (Reservations begin December 1.)

13 Catch the Rainbow (Part I)
Tuesday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Come discover the secrets of how to catch rainbow trout. Learn what equipment you will need and how to use it to enjoy this fun winter activity. Then join us on Saturday, December 17, to put your skills to the test on one of the stocked lakes at Busch CA. *Naturalist: Mark Hunstein.* (Reservations begin December 1.)

14 Owl Prowl
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls and learn how owls are especially designed for night activities. We will take a short hike on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and call in some owls. Warm clothing is necessary for the walk portion of this program. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin December 2.)



17 Catch the Rainbow: Trout Fishing (Part II)
Saturday 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
(All Ages) Join us for some late-season trout fishing fun! This class is for all who attended the beginners’ course on December 13. *Naturalist: Mark Hunstein.* (Reservations begin December 1.)

17 Catch the Rainbow: Trout Fishing (Parts I & II)
Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(All Ages) Come discover the secrets of how to catch rainbow trout! Learn what equipment you will need and how to use it to enjoy this fun winter activity. Then put your skills to the test on one of the stocked lakes at Busch CA for some late-season trout fishing fun. *Naturalist: Mark Hunstein.* (Reservations begin December 1.)

<i>Busch</i> <i>Volunteer Milestones</i>	
Mark Hunstein.....	200 hours
Aaron Jungbluth.....	200 hours
Angie Naughton.....	200 hours
Penny Elder.....	500 hours
Glenn Senter.....	500 hours
Trish Senter.....	500 hours
Ed Leutwiler.....	1500 hours
Al Newman.....	2000 hours



Return this form to us by February 3, 2006. Thank you!

Making Tracks
St. Louis Region Newsletter

We want to spend your tax money wisely. Therefore, we need your help to clean up our mailing list. Please let us know if you are receiving duplicate copies of the *Making Tracks* newsletter, or if there are errors or changes in your name or mailing address.

Please complete and return this questionnaire by **February 3, 2006**. If we do not receive a response by that date, your name will be removed from the mailing list. One newsletter per family, please.

Yes! I want to continue to receive *Making Tracks*!

Your name: _____

Please check the appropriate box:

- No corrections needed ☐
New/corrected address ☐
Misspelling ☐
Duplicate mailings ☐

Comments:

If you are correcting an error, please print the correction(s) below:

Return your completed form by February 3 to:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Making Tracks
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304

Rockwoods Reservation

December 2005 Page 6

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Mo waiting li

Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

Woods Avenue; left on Woods

8 Candle-Making

Thursday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 10 & up) Today, all we need do for light is to flick a switch, but what did the pioneers do to see in the dark? Learn how early Americans utilized animals in the skill of candle-making and how the art has changed today. Each participant will make and take home a candle. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin November 22.)

13 Carnivores of Missouri

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Come learn about some of Missouri’s most adaptable and effective hunters. The carnivorous mammals of Missouri are beautiful animals with high intelligence. Some may even visit your backyard on a regular basis, even if you do not see them. Find out why it is so important that we allow these efficient predators to flourish. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin November 29.)

Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones

Robert Ziegler.....500 hours
John Ruprecht.....1000 hours
Jerry Rinaldi.....2000 hours

15 Conservation Frontiers: Calling new members! Informational Meeting

Thursday 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 7 & up) Conservation Frontiers is a youth-oriented program provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Although designed with youth in mind, this program is available to citizens of all ages. While working through a system of activities, participants develop a conservation foundation for Missouri’s natural resources. Here at Rockwoods Reservation, we have room for a few more members of our chapter. If you are interested in becoming a chapter member and want to learn more about the Frontiers program and requirements, sign up for our informational meeting. Space is limited! *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin December 1.)



16 HOMESCHOOL Winter Tree ID

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(All Ages) What happened to all of the trees? How do you know which ones are which? In this program, we’ll take you out on a hike to learn to identify some of Missouri’s trees by their bark and shape. Participants ages 10 and up also will learn to use a dichotomous key. Dress for the weather. The trail is not stroller-accessible. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin December 2.)

20 Beginning Bird Hike

Tuesday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Families) Which birds are visiting your feeders? Do they belong here in winter? Here’s your chance to find out. Join us as we introduce you to the basics of identifying birds. We’ll learn how to use field guides as we head out on a hike. Please bring binoculars. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin December 6.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

December 2005 Page 3

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 W

our waiting list. Interpretive services are av

north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

4 Focus on Optical Gifts

Sunday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 16 & up) Gift-giving season is near and binoculars are very popular! Learn how to select the proper type of binoculars for your outdoor person. Discover how they work and what the numbers mean as well as the two binocular types in general use and the advantages of each. Cleaning and focusing procedures will be demonstrated. Spotting scopes and tripods will also be discussed. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin immediately.)

7 River Ramble

Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 18 & up) Enjoy a leisurely 3-mile hike on the River’s Edge Trail and discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom. This month we’ll scan the Missouri River for bald eagles, mergansers, canvasbacks, redheads, scaups and ringneck ducks. Bring binoculars and birding guides if you have them. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin immediately.)

8 HOMESCHOOL Reptiles of Missouri

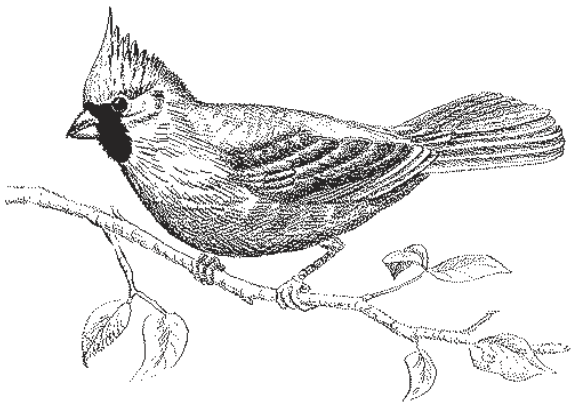
Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) What makes an animal a reptile? Learn what a reptile is, how to identify the many different reptiles and why they are an important part of the ecosystem. Come prepared to touch at least one reptile and take home some reptile facts to share with your family and friends. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin immediately.)

9 Born to be Wild

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7–12) “Mom, why can’t we keep that cute baby raccoon?” Have you ever wondered why wild animals shouldn’t be kept as pets? Come learn about Missouri’s wildlife, why they should stay wild, and how to identify their tracks so you know what’s out there. Join us as we explore the wild side of Columbia Bottom! *Trail Ranger: Stephanie Phillips.* (Reservations begin November 25.)

10 Holiday for Birds

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Take a break from the mad holiday rush to begin a family tradition. Create treats for our bird families at Columbia Bottom and take some treats for your feathered friends at home! *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.* (Reservations begin November 26.)



Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Mo☐
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Watson Road, exit and turn north on
Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

2 Now That’s Good Camouflage!

Friday 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
(Final ending time will depend on sunset)
(All Ages) How close can you get to wildlife?
In this program we will learn about hiding and effective camouflage. We’ll even give it a try for ourselves in Powder Valley’s woods. Before the program, please be prepared for cold weather; wear camouflage if you have it; and try to “de-scent” as much as possible. *Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy.* (Reservations begin November 18.)

8 HOMESCHOOL Pinecone Holiday

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Create your own pinecone ornaments. We will learn about the shortleaf pine and make animal ornaments from the cones. *Staff Naturalist: Jada Barhorst.* (Reservations begin November 23.)

10 Where the Wood Fern Grows: A Winter Photo Walk

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 12 & up) Deep in the forest, protected from the summer sun and the winter freezing winds, the wood fern grows. Dress warmly and join the naturalist on a casual winter walk observing and photographing hidden features of the forest. Bring your own camera equipment, film or memory cards. *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin November 26.)

18 Celebrate the Season

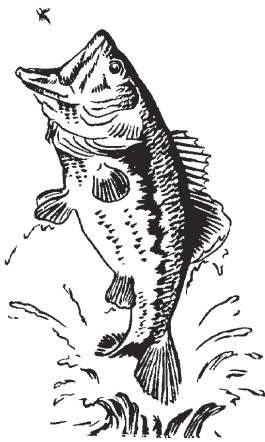
Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
(All Ages) Come drive the cold winter away with winter songs and sing-a-long songs for the holidays. A little facts, a little laughs, a little dance. Come, take a chance! We’ll **Celebrate the Season** with plentiful good cheer. No reservations needed. Just stop by; we’ll be here! Cookies and hot cocoa served. *Volunteer Naturalist: Linda Hibbitts.* (No reservations necessary.)

21 Christmas for the Birds

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Please don’t forget our feathered friends during the holidays! Join us to make gorgeous outdoor decorations just for our friends. *Volunteer Naturalist: Janyce Beyer.* (Reservations begin December 7.)

It’s Feeding Frenzy!

Come out to Powder Valley every Sunday at 1 p.m. to watch the frenzy as the fish in our 3000-gallon aquarium are fed. Watch and learn the different feeding techniques of these native big river fish as they go wild during their feeding. Species include channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish, common carp, hybrid bass, white bass, shortnose and longnose gar, smallmouth buffalo, freshwater drum, gizzard shad and soft-shell turtle. (No reservations necessary.)



Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Nature Films For December 2005

December 3 & 4

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Eyewitness: Rock & Mineral

Eyewitness: Pond and River

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Triumph of Life: (Nature) Brain Power

Triumph of Life: (Nature) The Survivors

Guarding Our Living Environment

December 10 & 11

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Kodak Children’s Video Series: How Animals Move

Eyewitness: Shell

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Audubon Society’s Video Guide to Birds of North America Series: Volume I

Fishing III

December 17 & 18

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Geo Kids: Bear Cubs, Baby Ducks, and Kooky Kookaburras

Magic School Bus: Butterflies!

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Audubon Society’s Video Guide to Birds of North America Series: Volume II

Wood/Forest Products II

Forests: More than Trees

December 24 & 25

We are closed for the holidays. Happy Holidays to you and yours!

December 31

We are closed January 1. Have a happy New Year!

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

See How They Grow: Wild Animals

See How They Grow : Pond Animals

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Audubon Society’s Video Guide to Birds of North America Series: Volume III

Exploring Outdoor Missouri

Shown in the Auditorium - Free of Charge - Groups Welcome!
Films are subject to change.

December Hallway Exhibit Artist

Laura Lee McDermott

Laura Lee McDermott has lived in Missouri all her life. She grew up in Cedar Hill and currently resides in Grubville with her husband Jimmy and three boys: David, Jacob and Noah.

Laura Lee is a portrait artist at heart specializing in graphite. She has expanded her desires to include the ancient art of silver point, some watercolor and oil paintings. She also enjoys ceramics. Laura Lee sees any type of art form allowing her to get her hands dirty to be a release after taking care of her family.

Laura Lee feels that a person cannot help but be inspired by the beautiful state we live in and its vast geographical differences.

Laura Lee is a member of local art guilds, including the Mid-America Fine Art Guild and Ste. Genevieve Art Guild, and has shown at several regional events.



SHOP EARLY!

Powder Valley Nature Center and Gift Shop
will be closed on December 24 and 25.

Best wishes from our staff and volunteers
for a wonderful holiday season!

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Charlie Anderson.....	3600 hours	Bill Heady.....	1200 hours
Nathan Boswell.....	400 hours	Audrey Kadlee.....	1900 hours
Ginny Burmeister.....	1900 hours	Arta Kirk.....	1100 hours
Lee Halbeck.....	600 hours	Lawrence Burtelow.....	500 hours